

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

AND

ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORIES

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PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING
FOR THE DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
AND ALTERNATIVE USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES
ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2007

7:40 P.M.

MARRIOTT
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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

7:42 p.m.

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2
3 MR. GASPER: The very first speaker,
4 Robert Carra, director of the Save Jones Beach Ad Hoc
5 Committee. Robert?

6 MR. CARRA: As you know my name is Robert
7 Carra and as director, one of the directors of Save
8 Jones Beach Ad Hoc Committee, I thank MMS for the
9 opportunity to address this draft programmatic EIS.
10 I would like to say I could talk extensively with a
11 number of these people on the budgetary aspects of
12 this but I am not coming to you on that basis. All
13 here should be aware of the cooperating agency status
14 MMS has with the U.S. Coast Guard the Coast Guard's
15 navigation and vessel inspection circular number 02-07
16 as it relates to applicants of wind farms. MMS should
17 also be aware of the U.S. Department of Defense's
18 report for the congressional defense committee on the
19 affects of wind farms on military readiness 2006. I
20 quote from Section 9, Conclusions 1 and 5 and parts of
21 that. The first conclusion, wind farms located within
22 radar line of site of an error defense radar have the
23 potential to degrade the ability of that radar to
24 perform its intended function. This will negatively
25 influence the ability of U.S. military forces to

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1 defend the nation. Number 5 conclusion. The FAA --
2 there were nine conclusions. The FAA has the
3 responsibility to promote and maintain the safe
4 efficient use of U.S. air space for all users. The
5 Department of Defense defers to the FAA regarding
6 possible impact wind farms may have on air traffic
7 control. The department is prepared to assist the
8 FAA. If the Department of Defense defers in part to
9 the FAA, should not the MMS consider additional
10 cooperating governmental agencies. The FAA has the
11 authority to regulate structures based on what they
12 call DOH, which is a determination of hazard. They
13 have three divisions and these are their designations.
14 The complexity of our infrastructure should not omit
15 as well the FCC from this mix. We are talking about
16 a lot of stuff going on simultaneously. I don't know
17 if the Coast Guard by itself is capable of handling
18 this endeavor. It is a daunting task to evaluate
19 surrounding our frontier with dynamic devices of this
20 magnitudes, wind turbines. All ramifications must be
21 considered when the safety and security of the nation
22 is at stake. Thank you.

23 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next Speaker,
24 Laurie Farber.

25 MS. FARBER: Hi. I'm Laurie Farber. One

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1 of things that I am not really understanding in a
2 brief lookover of the programmatic EIS is whether or
3 not the MMS would actually ever deny a permit because
4 the ecological impact is too great to acceptable. We
5 all understand the problems with claimant change and
6 the need to wean ourselves from fossil fuels, but that
7 doesn't mean that every project should proceed no
8 matter the cost. A major impact -- the impact would
9 describe from minor to major and so forth. A major
10 impact, hundreds of thousands of individuals could
11 seriously degrade the ability of any species to adapt
12 to a changing world. The fewer individuals left, the
13 less genetic diversity and adaptation is all about
14 genetic diversity. I'm not seeing any discussion
15 about the auto migratory route of the black-pole
16 warbler and the reason I mentioned this particular
17 bird is that it basically flies straight off our
18 coastlines over the water to its winter range any
19 where from Nova Scotia down to about Cape Hatteras, so
20 it goes right off our coast. Information is easily
21 found on the Internet because I was looking today
22 again. I'm not seeing any explanation in terms of
23 impact to birds about the lighting in the way, other
24 than any direct collisions because the lights fool
25 them, lures the birds in, they fly around in circles

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1 and drop of exhaustion. They have so little fat on
2 their bodies that they don't have margins for error
3 and they really get exhausted too easily during their
4 migration. Humming birds, for example, fly over the
5 Gulf of Mexico. Any interruption in that, they can't
6 make it. In 5.2.9.6, the mitigation measures for
7 birds, it talks about avoid locating facilities in
8 areas of known high migratory bird use. Well, that's
9 about pretty much our Atlantic and Gulf Coasts because
10 they are all high migratory bird use areas. The birds
11 from here frequently fly across the Gulf to get to
12 their winter areas. Why wouldn't any construction be
13 completely prohibited in or through nesting area
14 during the nesting season. I remember the impact of
15 the construction of the outfield pipe for the
16 Southwest District that went right through the Cedar
17 Beach Tern Colony. I was working out there for a
18 professor at the time and the construction wasn't done
19 during the nesting season, but the upheaval meant that
20 there was a strip straight through the colony, right
21 smack in the middle of it with no vegetation and it
22 was years before any terns, commons and roseate, which
23 nested there in great numbers, returned to nest in
24 that part of the colony. I don't know very much about
25 sea turtles, because they aren't any on our Long

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1 Island shores, but it seems like the same kind of rule
2 should apply. Mitigation isn't the same as leaving
3 things undisturbed. It also seems to me that the
4 mitigation measures talked about are all about may
5 include and avoid, nothing that says it will, you must
6 and that concerns me greatly because I think it is
7 very important that projects be required to follow any
8 studies or recommendations made by the U.S. Fish &
9 Wildlife Service. I think they should be required to
10 seek out the last impacting routes for transmission
11 cables, for example. Nothing in here says they must
12 and that concerns me greatly. I'm concerned that
13 there are a lot of these pieces that are missing from
14 any specific studies and that all projects will be
15 given a green light no matter how major the impact is.
16 And I really fear that the next great wave of
17 extinctions will be traced back to our greed and short
18 sidedness.

19 MR. GASPER: Thank you. The next speaker
20 is Charles A. Hersh from the Save Jones Beach Ad Hoc
21 Committee.

22 MR. HERSH: Good evening folks. I'm
23 Charles Hersh and I am a retired electrical engineer
24 and I think you people have a hard job because
25 everybody is going to want renewable energy.

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1 Everybody's going to want all kinds of gas and
2 everything and the big question is how well will it
3 work and how much will it cost. And you may have to
4 say no to people, even though they desperately want
5 something that will turn out to be a piece of junk
6 like the wind farm. And it's not just the flaw of the
7 wind farm, it's the wind itself. You know, you are
8 trying to build a device that is going to work
9 dependably on something that's not dependable, the
10 wind. The other problem with the wind is it's low
11 density. That forces you to build gigantic structures
12 in order to catch a sufficient power and it means that
13 the thing is not cost effective. It costs a small
14 fortune, it's not dependent. A 20 percent drop in
15 wind speed will have the power and the energy isn't
16 there. And so this is why the wind farm is a piece of
17 junk and they are planting them all over the place and
18 the environmentalist love it. It's renewable energy.
19 I will tell you something else, after it's built, they
20 will look at these windmills and they'll say they're
21 lovely, we love them. And they are still not
22 producing a lot of power and they are still not
23 dependable and they don't even see the bottom line.
24 And yet that's what they are going to be doing. Now
25 you are going to look at wave energy. Well I have to

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1 admit the density of water is 800 times as much as
2 air, but waves tend to be bigger when there's wind, so
3 that's not even dependable. I don't know. You could
4 have a fool's paradise. As renewable energy, I'm
5 hereby declaring natural gas is renewable. It is
6 being made by vegetation. The scientific American
7 just stated that, even living plants make methane.
8 And so that's renewable. So maybe you should also
9 consider looking for a natural gas. Frankly, re-
10 powering he spends generating equipment, we do a lot
11 more than combat global warming, a lot better for the
12 rate payers and we would do a lot more to cut fossil
13 fuel use. It's not even close compared to that wind
14 farm. That's the things you should be thinking about,
15 not -- you know, you have to be careful because the
16 newspapers and all, the environmentalists, they will
17 get enthusiastic about something and then low and
18 behold maybe it will be good and maybe it will be a
19 piece of junk. So you have your work cut out for you
20 and I'll try, if you want, I'll try and help you, but
21 it's tough. Maybe they will come up with an easy way
22 to produce hydrogen. Craig Branta, you know, is
23 looking at it but I don't know what they are going to
24 come up with. I would say that some of the old-
25 fashioned things like re-powering worked much better

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1 and that often means switching from oil to natural gas
2 and so you should look at L and G and so I am going to
3 wish you guys the best of luck. Okay. You have a
4 hard task. Thank you very much.

5 MR. GASPER: Thank you. The next speaker
6 is Steve Bellone, supervisor, Town of Babylon.

7 MR. BELLONE: Thank you very much. I want
8 to thank MMS for hosting this meeting tonight. In an
9 effort to give full disclosure I am definitely going
10 to be exceeding the three minute time limit but a
11 couple of members of the audience have agreed to seed
12 me their time. I do represent 220,000 residents of
13 the Town of Babylon as well as all concerned Long
14 Islanders with respect to the Long Island offshore
15 wind project and of course we can talk about the
16 national nature of this programmatic but we cannot
17 divorce ourselves from the reality here tonight that
18 Long Island is concerned with the Long Island offshore
19 wind project. And there was some confusion initially,
20 I believe, regarding whether this programmatic would
21 ultimately comply or the Long Island offshore wind
22 project would ultimately have to comply with the
23 results here. It was our understanding and I think it
24 was promoted by the Long Island Power Authority that
25 Secretary Gal Norton, as she was departing the

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1 Department of the Interior, had said that the Long
2 Island offshore wind project would not be required to
3 comply with the regulations that were under
4 promulgation at the time. I think it is good news to
5 hear that that's not the case, that they will have to
6 comply. My greater concern, however, is that if the
7 programmatic were to go through as is, what they have
8 to comply with is not significant and as one of the
9 speakers said before, and I think very well, would any
10 project under this programmatic not pass environmental
11 muster. FPL when they sent in their comments to your
12 proposed rule making, they basically sent in a
13 document that in my view could have been written by
14 Haliburton. It was that bad of an environmental
15 document. And essentially, at its core, what it said
16 was MMS and federal government, you let the industry
17 really regulate itself and take the driver's seat when
18 it comes to projects like this, particularly with wind
19 and my comments will be, with this programmatic, will
20 be directed at the wind portion of the programmatic.
21 And we in the town of Babylon, we are very critical of
22 FPL submission to MMS at that time. What I have seen
23 in this programmatic is that MMS has essentially
24 granted virtually everything that FPL asked for in
25 their submission and my concern again is that MMS, the

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1 agency responsible for oversight here is acting more
2 as an expediter of these projects rather than as a
3 regulator. And this is too important, this project
4 has too many impacts for Long Island and you can
5 extend that out to projects that will occur across the
6 country for there not to be a more thorough and more
7 rigorous environmental review and process required
8 before these projects go through and because they are
9 renewable and because they are clean energy does not,
10 in my estimation, excuse them from the same kind of
11 thorough rigorous environmental review that any
12 project should go through. We are all here concerned
13 about reducing the impact of global warming, about
14 reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, but we are
15 concerned about the environment. I might as well put
16 up all the cards right now. You said, MMS said in
17 this programmatic, pilot projects. FPL requested so
18 that MMS should not require pilot projects because we
19 have enough information from the European experience.
20 In your programmatic, you concur. FPL, yes. There
21 will be no requirements of pilot projects. It also
22 talks about alternative projects. FPL, in their
23 submission said you shouldn't think about alternative
24 projects or other hypotheticals. In the programmatic,
25 you concur with FPL. FPL said that no independent

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1 wind study should be conducted by the federal
2 government by MMS and by the way when the industry
3 conducts their own studies, they should remain
4 proprietary information and not be made available to
5 the public. MMS concurs with FPL in this
6 programmatic. No independent wind analysis to be
7 done. And economic viability, which is critical. FPL
8 says that you shouldn't look into economic viability
9 at all. Well, from where I sit that is the crux of
10 the issue or one of the most important issues. We are
11 looking at a project that may produce 28 megawatts of
12 energy at more than half a billion dollars. Economic
13 viability is a critical issue here and certainly one
14 that the agency in charge of regulating should be
15 looking at it but instead you have granted FPL their
16 wish and this review, this programmatic says that no
17 economic issue should be observed. However, in the
18 programmatic, despite these things, you do go on to
19 make representations that I think even the most
20 unabashed supporter of wind energy would not make.
21 And specifically I am citing a reference to load
22 capacity in which in the programmatic you cite a
23 Danish, an IEA report, Internal Energy Agency report,
24 that is unreferenced, citing a 53 percent load
25 capacity for wind. Now LIPA, which is not known for

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1 conservative estimations, itself has said that they
2 are not going to produce more than 35 percent load
3 capacity. Yet, in your programmatic, you cite a
4 Danish, an IEA study, citing a Danish facility at a 53
5 percent load capacity. But if you look at the British
6 experience or the Danish experience, in fact, the load
7 capacity is between 20 and 25 percent. Moreover, MMS
8 might seriously consider removing all industry
9 friendly references from your programmatic.
10 Particularly these of the visual impact. The draft
11 programmatic cites, among others, Dung energy, which
12 is to cite visual impact, Dung energy, of course, is
13 the owner of several offshore wind facilities. In
14 addition, this past January when we heard that MMS had
15 conducted a meeting of stakeholders for the Cape Cod
16 project in Massachusetts. We formally requested a
17 comparable meeting. I sent a second letter in March.
18 We have not heard a response to that and we are eager
19 to see something like that occur so that we can be
20 assured that our concerns are being heard here on Long
21 Island. The draft programmatic EIS dismisses most
22 environmental concerns and impacts as negligible to
23 moderate, which in my view for all intense purposes,
24 renders an environmental review particularly for this
25 project superfluous and unnecessary. In essence,

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1 through this national draft programmatic, you have
2 given an environmental green light to this project.
3 I would like to give a point by point analysis or
4 breakdown of why or how this programmatic should be
5 changed but quite frankly it's unsalvageable with
6 respect to the wind portion. I think that MMS should
7 simply tear up the draft portion, the wind portion, of
8 this draft programmatic and you should start over.

9 MR. GASPER: Thank you. The next speaker
10 is Wally D'Amato, president of the Nassau Shores
11 Civic.

12 MR. D'AMATO: You're a tough one to follow,
13 Mr. Bellone. Good evening. My name is Wally D'Amato.
14 I am president of the Nassau Shores Civic Association.
15 I represent about 1,600 residents in Nassau Shores.
16 I spoke before with MMS at the last two meetings and
17 I understand what you guys are looking to do to re-
18 scope, to look out, you know, for what you guys want
19 to do throughout the United States. Long Island,
20 though, is just very unique in its own way. Yes, we
21 have the shore lines, like out on the Florida coast
22 and on the West Coast, we have parks, we have school.
23 We have everything just like everybody else but the
24 unique thing about Long Island is that we have the
25 most costly utility in the United States and I am

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1 hoping that MMS puts that into account when you are
2 looking at these areas, you know, for costs. Going
3 through all the records that -- everything that we
4 have been working on, we are finding out that, you
5 know, this particular wind project which is part of
6 this whole scope, was millions, hundreds of millions
7 of dollars and it was said to us that this was going
8 to be paid for by FPL. But what's going to happen is
9 we have to pay for these so in these other areas, in
10 the United States and all, I don't know how much their
11 electric costs. I know they are much cheaper so if
12 there is going to be a little bit of a cost due to the
13 fact that they want to do something different, a
14 little unique, it will be easier for them to do it.
15 We are losing a lot of our residents on the Island due
16 to the fact of the over cost of the electric. It
17 makes it much harder. It makes it much harder for the
18 businesses. It makes it much harder on our schools,
19 all our facilities. There is more money that have to
20 go over to them. Renewable energies is something we
21 definitely need. We need to look into it and we need
22 to do something with. Solar would be something which
23 has been around for a while. It seems to be working
24 very well. It is something you can put up on a roof.
25 You really -- you are not going to see it and it's

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1 going to work. This is, you know, I don't know if you
2 guys, you didn't mention anything about solar. You
3 were talking about wind. You were talking about
4 water. Wind, wave and ocean. It might be good to
5 push on the solar issue for areas where maybe the wind
6 isn't conducive to the area. Maybe our oceans, you
7 know, we are hurricane prone areas. You know, they
8 are talking about putting up sand bars to try and
9 protect these windmills. That's going to change the
10 whole ecosystem of the ocean. We've learned that from
11 over the years with when they try and put jetties up
12 to stop erosions or try and shift things around.
13 Let's change this and maybe it will do that. It is
14 something else that we have to worry about. The
15 economical impact on it for everybody, it's something
16 I hope, again, you know, I speak for Long Island. I
17 speak for my community. The Massapequa is my area,
18 but one of the things is this affects everybody on
19 Long Island that's something that a lot of people
20 don't realize. You know, some people worried about
21 aesthetics. They worry about this. They worry about
22 that. Economically, this is not going to be conducive
23 for the Island. This is going to hurt the Island
24 immensely and I am hoping MMS does put that into
25 consideration because again, like I said, our area is,

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1 Long Island is pretty unique. Thank you.

2 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Our next
3 speaker, Walter Arnold, Save Jones Beach.

4 MR. ARNOLD: I'd like to thank MMS for
5 giving everyone the opportunity to comment and for
6 having this hearing. I would like to discuss tonight
7 some cost benefits in your analysis. You list
8 fisheries. According to the MMS draft, the EIS
9 commercial landings in 2005, U.S. equals 3.7 billion
10 dollars in income to the United States. MMS' study
11 lists moderate impact. Those that equate to 20
12 percent loss, 30 percent loss, 50 percent loss. How
13 does it effect the cost of fish for taxpayers if you
14 have a 40 percent loss besides the billions of dollars
15 the U.S. doesn't enjoy. Tourism, boating and
16 recreation. On the East Coast in the United States,
17 according to your analysis in 2004, 624,602 people
18 were employed according to table M.2.22. You list
19 minor to temporary impact. Is ten percent impact
20 correct? That would mean 62,000 people would be out
21 of work. Would 20 percent be correct? That would
22 mean 124,000 people would be out of work. These are
23 tax paying industries that produce taxes to the United
24 States of America. Property value. An English court
25 of law ruled 20 percent property value lost to a

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1 property owner adjacent to one of these wind turbine
2 factories. Now the value of U.S. coastline property
3 is in the billions. MMS study indicates negligible to
4 minor impact on property value due to visual impacts.
5 What is real estate visual impact dollar value. Real
6 estate values view as priceless. MMS must discuss
7 this with real estate professionals with accurate
8 visuals. Total cost of our local LIPA project in
9 recent newspaper articles is appearing to be in excess
10 of \$600,000,000 as is estimated now, approximately a
11 year ago I think. Original estimate was going to
12 produce 144 megawatts. Now LIPA and FLP are admitting
13 to maybe 40 or 50 megawatts. Recent studies indicate
14 25 to 30 megawatts. With backup plants still running
15 in a spinning reserve capacity, what is oil emission
16 savings if any? If none, where is the benefit.
17 Subject of your study should include an independent
18 study of all emissions savings on actual base load
19 capacity of wind turbines, factoring in the spinning
20 reserve of backup plants in order to understand why we
21 are doing this. The backup plant is still polluting
22 when wind turbines are working. Where is the benefit?
23 Where or when do taxpayers start benefitting and how
24 much? Re-powering the existing plants is an
25 alternative that must be considered due to its

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1 benefits concerning reduction of emissions as well as
2 doubling capacity of existing plants. Thank you very
3 much.

4 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker,
5 John Brooks from the Jones Beach Ad Hoc Committee.

6 MR. BROOKS: Good evening. I appreciate
7 MMS coming here and letting us comment on the
8 programmatic. I want to address a couple of issues
9 that not only apply to Long Island but could apply
10 nationwide concerning the offshore continental shelf.
11 I would like to read a letter from Dr. Reba Goodman.
12 She's a professor at Columbia University. She wrote
13 this letter in 2005 to the Corp of Engineers but I am
14 not sure anybody has ever seen it because I have never
15 seen it referenced to in any of your websites or that
16 you even got this letter. Dear Corp of Engineers. I
17 am a molecular biologist and professional in the
18 pathology department at Columbia University. My area
19 of expertise is and has been for more than 25 years
20 the biological affects of electric and magnetic fields
21 on cells, tissues and whole animals. Our experiences
22 have used field strengths up to 10 gauss and
23 frequencies up to a gigahertz. We have been widely
24 published in journals such as the scientific journal
25 of cellular biology. I am writing this to tell you

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1 because it has come to my attention that LIPA has made
2 application for the installation of an offshore wind
3 park generating facility in submarine electric cables.
4 This strikes me as extremely dangerous and foolish in
5 the face of the impact such an installation will have
6 on the ocean waters and the animal and plant life that
7 are contained therein. Our studies have shown that
8 the electronic cables could produce gene changes in as
9 little as 20 minutes. Waters containing plants and
10 animal wildlife will be seriously affected by
11 electrical cables in the array that they are set out
12 in with their emissions. Genetic mutations are bound
13 to occur quickly as the evolutionary balance of these
14 organisms be severely altered and such mutations will,
15 in my opinion, lead to lethality and the death of
16 these waters and the life that they contain. A vast
17 stagnant swamp may be left after not many years and
18 the entire area could be blighted. I ask that much
19 more scientific investigation be done before any such
20 installation is even thought about. You must get a
21 group of marine biologists, population geneticists,
22 molecular biologists and micro biologists as well as
23 physicists to assess what looks like an ecological
24 disaster in the making. This is signed by Dr. Reba
25 Goodman. Another point on the electronic fields which

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1 in your 600 or 700 page document you have three
2 sentences. The proposed Long Island offshore wind
3 park will have spires in an array of 40 to 50 of high
4 voltage power cables to be placed 3.5 miles from the
5 most populated beach in the United States with over 12
6 million visitors annually. Your quotes are weak
7 electric fields can be detected by certain fish, rays
8 and sharks for use in orientation and pray location.
9 For example, sharks are capable of responding to weak,
10 slowly changing electric fields in sea water. You
11 combine 40 wind towers, which will attract numerous
12 bait fish, feeding fish, with electromagnetic fields,
13 which will attract predators and we have the potential
14 of attracting one of the large shark populations in
15 the United States, again only 3.5 miles from Jones
16 Beach. Thank you.

17 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker is
18 Thomas Vanderberg from the Save Jones Beach Ad Hoc
19 Committee.

20 MR. VANDERBERG: Good evening. My name is
21 Tom Vanderberg. I am associated with the Save Jones
22 Beach Ad Hoc Committee and I am a resident of
23 Amityville Long Island. In my opinion, the draft PEIS
24 did not achieve its stated purpose to provide
25 guidelines and best practices for future permit

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1 applications. I understand that the PEIS evaluates
2 generic, not specific, impacts, but it is nevertheless
3 disconcerting that it's virtually all the impacts are
4 described as either negligible or minor or at the
5 most, moderate in rare instances. These expected
6 impact levels are not quantified anywhere, so how can
7 they be challenged. The final PEIS must reveal
8 quantifiable data to support each conclusion regarding
9 expected levels of impact because these are in effect
10 measurements and they should be able to be
11 substantiated and verified with quantifiable data. I
12 mean, what is minor as previous figures have brought
13 up? The draft PEIS is especially lacking with regard
14 to determining if a particular project site is
15 inappropriate. I even wonder if it is considered
16 there is such a thing as an inappropriate site. Each
17 environmental aspect and the activities that are
18 contemplated are analyzed separately. There is no
19 attempt anywhere to give guidance on how to determine
20 if a tipping point is reached when all the various
21 impacts and activities are aggregated, which would
22 render a site of no goes on. My particular concern
23 involves effects of wind farms on coastal parks and
24 historic places. I would like to address these two
25 specific areas in the draft, areas of special concern.

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1 Only federal sites are listed here. State parks
2 should be too. National parks and refuges are clearly
3 off limits but there is too little guidance on how to
4 address lands held in a public trust by state and
5 local jurisdictions. Even regarding the national
6 sites in discussing a mitigation, it is suggested that
7 to avoid to the extent practicable placement with
8 invisible distances. I mean, what does that mean?
9 Practical according to whom? Does practicality trump
10 the public interest? With respect to land use and
11 existing infrastructure, this is one of the few places
12 in the draft where state and local parks are
13 mentioned. Here the draft states that current
14 information on impacts is incomplete or insufficient
15 to make generalizations. Yet, again, impact is
16 expected to be minor, based on what? It goes on to
17 state that project specific mitigation measures are
18 expected to result from public involvement and
19 discussion, again with no guidance on how to achieve
20 that. I can tell you based on the public discussion
21 of the LIPA project here, off Jones Beach, don't count
22 on it being easy to reach consensus or compromise. If
23 this programmatic EIS is to be more than an exercise
24 or going through motions, the final EIS has to be more
25 courageous, more specific and less obviously designed

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1 to let the industry write its own ticket. Thank you.

2 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker is
3 Richard Schary.

4 MR. SCHARY: My name is Richard Schary.
5 Unlike the other speakers, I am not particularly
6 speaking for SaveJonesBeach.org, although I support
7 all of their objectives. But I am looking at a wider
8 issue and I'm noticing tonight the paid
9 environmentalists are not here, which probably means
10 the LIPA project is on life support so I am going to
11 address the general study that you did because we have
12 a bigger issue just in Jones Beach. And what I would
13 like to start out -- I came here without any prepared
14 comments and I just looked at what you put up there on
15 the screen and quite frankly I was a little
16 disappointed. First of all, you cannot call them wind
17 farms. They are wind factories. And your study
18 should point this out. They are not a farm. They
19 don't produce a product that we can eat or digest.
20 Okay. It is wind factories and I would request that
21 MMS refer to them in the future as wind factories.
22 Number two, the National Energy Policy should apply to
23 as the speaker just before me said, the national
24 historic registry and the state historic registry.
25 There is no reason to eliminate state historic sites.

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1 You said Europe does a good job in offshore wind.
2 That is an objective statement. Not an objective
3 statement. It is a subjective statement. For the
4 speaker to say that is showing a little prejudice. I
5 have tremendous information, the people here have
6 information that Europe does not do such a great job
7 with their wind factories. That's not true and you
8 can't say that. I'm not going to let you get away
9 with it. Also, the fact that the two offshore
10 projects were left out this study, the LIPA project
11 and Cape Cod shows part of the problem here because
12 you also left out of the study, a proposed offshore
13 gas project. For example, there is a proposed island
14 a few miles off Long Beach which they are going to
15 construct for a natural gas terminal. So you are
16 going to set off one set of energy factories in the
17 ocean and you are going to ignore the other set.
18 Can't do it. Okay. Royalties. Who pays? LIPA is
19 already up to 600 million on their project. If they
20 have to start paying royalties this project will be a
21 billion dollars. You want royalties. You are trying
22 to get money. This is amazing. Now, I asked for the
23 first slide to be displayed because it shows offshore
24 we now have 400,000 production platforms. We have
25 33,000 miles of pipeline. 8,500 leases and 43 million

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1 acres leased already. I'm not happy about that
2 because what the MMS study envisions is 30 to 40
3 thousand windmills, from Maine to Florida, around the
4 Gulf Coast and up the California Coast. Only off
5 public beaches, of course. Private beaches will be
6 excluded because no private beach will want them.
7 Every public beach in this country will have wind
8 factories off it. I compare this to the last half of
9 the 19th century, to the railroad barrons greedily
10 dividing up this country to build the railroads and
11 making obscene profits. These projects, just like
12 someone said Haliburton before, will make a lot of
13 investors very rich but it will destroy the ecstasics
14 and the environment along our entire sea board. I
15 would like to conclude by saying one thing. People
16 said, oh the wind is free. You won't be able to see
17 the windmills. You can cover them with your thumb.
18 You can cover the sun with your thumb. It is
19 ridiculous to make statements like that. And we also
20 said when this island built Sharrum that the energy
21 would be too cheap to meter. This program as set out
22 by the MMS is an environmental disaster. Remember,
23 Long Island succeeded in closing down Sharrum, the
24 only nuclear factory built that was never opened and
25 Long Island's wind factory, as proposed, is going to

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1 be out there in the public first. And when that dies,
2 the rest of this program will go down the drain with
3 it. Thank you.

4 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker is
5 Lisa Schary.

6 MS. SCHARY: My name is Lisa Schary and I
7 am representing myself and all the other people that
8 couldn't be here tonight and I'm very happy that we
9 have all these people here in favor of saving Jones
10 Beach and that's one of the main things that I am
11 interested in tonight. I want to address a couple of
12 things in your study. I didn't see the test locations
13 in Florida. I wanted to see what happened when a
14 class five hurricane such as Katrina hits 40 windmills
15 and puts them in to propel through the sky. I would
16 like to see what happens when they become flight risks
17 for us. I would like to see also what happened to the
18 windows that are in the Coast of Hawaii that were left
19 there and haven't worked. I don't know if MMS existed
20 then but I'm glad that you exist now because standards
21 need to be set. But obviously you are not from Long
22 Island so you don't know that if we have a disaster,
23 the Coast Guard has moved off of the island. We don't
24 have the security. We don't have the people. We
25 don't have the fire department and even though LIPA

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1 has given our paid environmentalists a pass. I won't
2 be as generous as my husband. They are not here
3 tonight because they don't think they have to be --
4 they don't have to look at these standards and be
5 evaluated. And that is why I am glad you are here.
6 I also hope that you have a backup system because the
7 last time you collected all our information and our
8 research and it was lost. Oh no and then they found
9 it. I think they found it. I'm not sure. But anyway,
10 a lot of our comments that were submitted,
11 electronically and through the mail, were somehow
12 mysteriously removed from the record. So I hope that
13 you have a system in place and thank you very much.

14 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker is
15 Stephen Fleischer.

16 MR. FLEISCHER: Thanks. Thanks for coming.
17 Thanks for having a hearing for all of us and having
18 an opportunity to say our peace. My name is Stephen
19 Fleischer. I am a concerned citizen and I have a lot
20 of thoughts about the wind farms that you want to put
21 out there. First, aesthetically, I am understanding
22 this thing is going to be a certain height that would
23 be very similar to a 60-story building. Now if that
24 were the case I imagine it being similar to your
25 approach to the Midtown Tunnel and looking at Midtown

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1 Manhattan and the buildings that are of that height.
2 It's not something that's small. It's something that
3 is dramatic and obvious. I can't imagine whose making
4 us think that something of that size is going to be
5 almost unrecognizable and not noticed. The other
6 thing that I am thinking of is something this big. I
7 live on the south shore. I live on Sand in a Bug.
8 How deep do you have to go down, something so big with
9 so much torque, how far down offshore are you going to
10 have to drill and change the bed, the sea bed, to
11 anchor these things and keep them stable in a high
12 wind condition. There's a lot of torque going on
13 something of that magnitude spinning at whatever
14 speed. How are you going to keep that thing fast and
15 secure? The other thing that I am thinking of, the
16 cost of this project that might be built. I am
17 thinking that the cost that this will be put upon the
18 public, I'm sure that a team of efficiency experts can
19 go from house to house, building to building analyze
20 and correct whatever is wrong with any particular
21 spot, any particular energy user and make a far
22 greater impact on the efficiency of power use for the
23 money being spent. And if that was done, local people
24 would do the work, local people -- it would help the
25 local economy and every step of the way would be under

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1 the control of the people being impacted most. I'm
2 sure that any one who would create an efficiency in
3 their own home or in their own building would be proud
4 of themselves for the different in the bills that is
5 coming to them from LIPA and Key Span. The other
6 thing is as far as the costs and it's like whose going
7 to build this thing? Is this going to be -- 35 years
8 ago, if I recall, there was people on Long Island
9 developing wind power. There's no developing wind
10 power on Long Island to generate any impact on the
11 economy, but if it was going to be built it wouldn't
12 be built by Long Island people. It might not even be
13 built by American people, these wind generators. So
14 what impact is that going to give anyone's economy.
15 Beyond the impact of that, whose going to install this
16 great structure, one by one? What I see going on in
17 my world is that they fly a team, let's say a Florida
18 team, into Long Island, put them up at a hotel and
19 have them do the work. So no Long Islander is going
20 to put this piece up. And then whose raw materials
21 going to build this thing, even the foundation. Not
22 a company on Long Island is going to be or even in New
23 York State, will get a dime into the construction of
24 any aspect of this. So, whose, all we get is an
25 opportunity is to pay for this thing. But nobody is

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1 going to have an opportunity to work on this thing to
2 create whatever it takes to support your facilities
3 and your incomes and your families. No one is going
4 to generate a dime locally through this thing being
5 done. It's only going to be the people who've
6 commissioned this thing and are building this thing.
7 And it's all going to be done at a distance, no where
8 close to home. Not a dollar is going to come in to
9 the local economy. It's just going to be our money
10 going out the door. Thank you very much.

11 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker is
12 Jim Papa, Surfrider Central, Long Island.

13 MR. PAPA: I'm not really here to speak for
14 Surfrider tonight. I will practice my comments by
15 saying that I am a professor of American Literature
16 and one of my areas of expertise is America
17 Environmental History, Literature and Thought and that
18 I published articles on such American environmental
19 writers as Henretha Row, Edward Abby and Annie
20 Dillard. My first concern -- I haven't had a chance
21 yet to read the draft Environmental Impact Statement
22 but my first concern for the nationwide programmatic
23 but especially this project off Long Island, off Jones
24 Beach, is that MMS recognize that the land and the
25 seascapes aesthetic value is part of our cultural,

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1 artistic, intellectual tradition. And that is an
2 intercal part of our national psyche past, present and
3 future and should not simply be considered a trivial
4 or expendable concern to be done away with every time
5 we come up against a material need. Walter Arnold
6 spoke about the difficulty of quantifying certain
7 economic questions and whatnot, jobs and whatnot.
8 Well I ask you, the losses that we might incur by
9 sacrificing something that we have long considered in
10 our tradition to be important, which is sacred or
11 sanctified places we preside, how will you qualify
12 those losses, because they are certainly not going to
13 be quantified through a cost benefit analysis and the
14 cold logic behind that or through science. So that's
15 my first concern that you really consider that
16 anywhere. Whether it's California, Florida, Maine,
17 anywhere. My second concern is that as a nation it
18 took us a long time to come to understand the value of
19 our costal environments in ecology and or near shore
20 environments and that's really not since the 70s that
21 we really began to understand that. And I don't want
22 to see that recent awareness turned back, you know,
23 quickly and without real serious consideration. One
24 or two other things. The second is that I would also
25 like that MMS when they consider these projects, to

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1 consider them not simply within the scientific vein
2 but to look at these projects and the things that are
3 being suggested for our nation and our energy
4 resources in terms of our larger, political economy.
5 In other words, the price of the LIPA thing now is up
6 to, I read recently, somewhere around \$650,000,000.
7 I have no doubt that if that \$650,000,000 were
8 invested in either simply putting windows in people's
9 houses or helping subsidize more solar panels on
10 people's roofs or changing the building codes that
11 that kind of energy conservation would save more than
12 we would ever get from these. But we all know that we
13 are not really interested in taking people off the
14 commercial grid, whether it's private or quasi
15 private. So I want you to consider when you look at
16 these projects that the way we do things and the sort
17 of alternative things we come up with are not divorced
18 from the way we think. It's not often just a
19 scientific project. It's a project if people say who
20 owns this? Who distributes it? Who controls the
21 energy? In the past Richard Kessler has talked about
22 us being beholden to what he called economic
23 terrorists from the Middle East but we have some at
24 home, too, we should watch out for. Thank you.

25 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker is

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1 Philip Healey, Biltmore Shore Civic Association.

2 MR. HEALEY: Hello, how are you doing?
3 Thanks for coming. Actually I am going to agree with
4 a couple of things that you have done so far. But
5 will work backwards. I think it is really important
6 to have the decommissioning standards in there. I
7 would like to see some standards in there from
8 maintenance and storm recovery standards. One time we
9 were told by a spokesman for the wind project that if
10 we had a hurricane here, we shouldn't have to worry
11 about if the towers fall over because so many other
12 problems and they will just sit in the water. That is
13 almost a direct quote from them. I like the fact that
14 you have a time frame that you are looking at, five to
15 seven years. Anything dealing with the coast and the
16 waters, you need at least that much time. I love the
17 fact that you are going to set some standards where
18 there won't be variances, speaking as a local
19 developing. There are things that are going to be
20 said and someone coming in to the project knows it.
21 Those things that I think you really need to look at,
22 the project from end to end. You can't look at your
23 project in your coastal offshore waters and U.S.
24 waters compared to state waters. You have to look at
25 it in its entirety from where it goes from the local

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1 neighborhood right out to the wind farms themselves.
2 Obviously the way you presented it in the beginning is
3 a tremendous bias for wind by corporations and public
4 utilities and federal government. So what I really
5 think you need to do, speaking as a civic association,
6 from our standpoint, that something, when you get a
7 project brought to you, they have to reveal to them,
8 to you, how much money is being put into public
9 relations through their own parties, special
10 consultants are handling in that equal amount so the
11 people in civic associations and fisherman can have a
12 fair shot at fighting back. You have to say, all
13 right you are going to put \$100,000 into PR and then
14 an independent third party has to get a \$100,000 and
15 the fishermen and the civic associations can partition
16 for that money so we can present our case to the
17 public, through the court of public appeal to whatever
18 we have to do to protect our interest and our economy.
19 It's the only fair way. There is no way for a civic
20 association, my group of 1,100 people and Mr. D'Amato
21 for 1,600 people to go raise five hours at a time to
22 try to fight what we think is important to us and our
23 economy and our friends and our families and our
24 neighborhoods and how we feed our families. The
25 community outreach, the community involvement has to

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1 be a key component. If you want to, any kind of
2 consensus, any kind of compromise. Without it, you
3 just get everyone mad and then we just go around and
4 around. Thank you for your time.

5 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker is
6 Dennis Quarantana -- excuse me Dennis Quaranta. I
7 will let you do it, from Winergy.

8 MR. QUARANTA: Thank you. My name is
9 Dennis Quaranta. I am the president of Winergy Power.
10 My comments are based basely on the time line of this
11 whole permitting process and I am sure when I leave
12 here tonight I am going to have a lot more enemies
13 than friends. In August of 2005, Minerals and
14 Management Service was granted the authority to
15 develop alternate uses of the outer continental shelf.
16 One of the new responsibilities was to develop a
17 program for renewable energy. The new program was to
18 be fully funded, fully defined and rules in place in
19 270 days. We are now a year past that period and it
20 appears that we are only halfway through the process.
21 We are in a era of growing concerns about the affects
22 of global warming and expanding use of imported fossil
23 fuels and domestic coal. We understand that Minerals
24 and Management was given the authority to develop the
25 program but it remains an unfundable mandate. I would

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1 like to read into the record an allocation authorized
2 under Title 4, Section 411 of the Energy Policy Act of
3 2005. Coal technology loan. \$125,000,000 for a loan
4 to the Golden Valley Electric Association to convert
5 the Healey Coal Plant in Alaska from a clean coal
6 facility to a conventional coal facility. Now let me
7 read that again so there is no confusion because this
8 is important. A coal technology loan. \$125,000,000
9 loan to the Golden Valley Electric Association to
10 convert the Healey Coal Plant in Alaska from a clean
11 coal facility to a conventional coal facility. It is
12 sad commentary that we can expedite \$100,000,000 in
13 funding for one coal plant but we can't get off the
14 dime on offshore renewable energy for lack of funding.
15 We need energy but we need it to be clean, renewable
16 and domestic. It is time for us to get our priorities
17 straight as a nation and a world leader. Even if the
18 rules are not done, we ask that Minerals and
19 Management begin to accept applications. There is
20 enough body of law and regulations in place to provide
21 guidelines for permitting offshore renewable energy
22 facilities based on half a century of experience with
23 offshore minerals and extraction. Thank you very
24 much.

25 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker is

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1 Bob Link, also with Winergy Power.

2 MR. LINK: For a change I even wrote down
3 my comments. My name is Bob Link from Winergy Power.
4 I am the permit compliance officer. I first want to
5 thank MMS for putting together the GEIS or the PDIS or
6 however we are going to refer to it. Together, I have
7 a few comments on it. Under Section 7.6.4 which was
8 a modified conclusion of everything that was written
9 before the PEIS has not addressed or suggested a
10 monitoring protocol. It would be in the applicant's
11 interest and the interest of the reviewing agencies,
12 in this case MMS, that the PEIS make a suggestion from
13 a monitoring program that the applicant can address
14 throughout the writing of their site specific EIS.
15 This will create consistency throughout the document
16 and aid in a thorough and comprehensive review
17 process. Section 8.3.1. It would be helpful to all
18 applicants if MMS, in their ESA consultations, Energy
19 EIS could lay out the endangered species by region,
20 such as the Atlantic region, the Gulf of Mexico region
21 and the Pacific region. By laying this out first, the
22 applicant would be able to address this most important
23 consultation in the Section 7 part of any application
24 that goes in, in a consistent manner which would
25 create a thorough review. In Section 7.5.2.9 -- you

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1 see I did read this. The PEIS states that 200,000
2 birds die each year in collisions with offshore oil
3 and gas platforms and they have not provided
4 mitigation as of yet. With wind turbines, mitigation
5 exists for collisions at the launch or offshore wind
6 farms over in Europe and have proved successful. This
7 should be taken into consideration when the GEIS is
8 modified and expanded. Because this PEIS is one part
9 of the process that must occur before the rule making
10 process can proceed, it would be nice if DOI, the
11 Department of Interior, could speak with a common
12 voice. We were at a meeting Fish & Wildlife was
13 basically telling us that they didn't like this.
14 Bureau of Land Management was talking also that this
15 is not really they would approach it. Bureau is also
16 the Department of Interior, so it gets a little
17 confusing and at my age and being Polish it becomes
18 very difficult. On a personal note, I've heard people
19 comment here before about whose going to build these
20 things and where are they going to go. It's personal.
21 Dennis can find me after I say it. My TV is a
22 Toshiba. I think it was made in Japan or Vietnam or
23 China or I don't have a clue, but I bought it at a
24 P.C. Richards. People were talking about their
25 credentials. I have a doctorate in Environmental

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1 Sciences that have been awarded to me. I don't know
2 what that has to do with the process. This is a
3 process that sets up procedures. Procedures are most
4 important. Another gentleman spoke about natural
5 gases or renewable energy. It takes 10,000 years of
6 natural gas, nature working for five minutes to cook
7 your egg. I don't consider 10,000 years renewable
8 because I am going to be dead in ten years or 15 years
9 or 20. I don't live 10,000. Renewable is in our
10 lifetime and the lifetime is what we are trying to
11 preserve. Thank you.

12 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Okay next
13 speaker is Jeff Yapalater.

14 MR. YAPALATER: Thank you MMS for coming by
15 here to illicit our remarks. I have been to these
16 before but I've got to tell you, I have learned more
17 different opinions from the people that have spoken
18 tonight. It's incredible the amount of information
19 that people have given here tonight and from different
20 aspects. Every aspect that affects our life daily.
21 I thank you all for doing that. It's really terrific.
22 I live in Long Island. I love Long Island. I
23 perceive the offshore as something that's far out. I
24 fish. I would like to say I represent the fishing,
25 recreational fishing people. Not everybody but a fair

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1 amount. Inshore to me is basically three to five, ten
2 miles out, that's inshore. Offshore is 50 to 70 miles
3 by the continental shelf. I don't who gave you this
4 job but it seems to be your carven of vast territory
5 and the environments differ from basically the waves
6 that break on the beach to the continental shelf. How
7 you will ever come to an agreement or consensus how
8 this all works is beyond me. Hopefully with the input
9 of people like us around the country you will be able
10 to get there. I have been working with a group called
11 MACOORA, M-A-C-O-O-R-A. They are the Mid-Atlantic
12 Ocean Observing Research Association made up of a lot
13 of university people who are in studies and some
14 private and public institutions. I would like for you
15 to bring this group in also to help give input to
16 what's underneath the water. We are talking about a
17 lot what's above the water. As a fisherman, I like to
18 see what's underneath the water. Like the
19 hummingbirds and like the rest of the migratory birds,
20 there are a vast number of migrations of different
21 kinds of species from close in to way out and most of
22 these are not even known. They don't know the
23 migrations of certain tuna, of shark, blue fish,
24 fluke, whatever. These will be greatly impacted by
25 all kinds of future energy choices. It's a great

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1 forum here. I think the vision of the future for
2 sustainable energy is wonderful. I think we are all
3 very concerned about it and I think we all want to get
4 there, but I hope that you are bringing the proper
5 resources, the ones that I mentioned. The others that
6 I don't know about and we all get this together and we
7 can come up with a very good formula for the future.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Next speaker is
10 David Hager.

11 MR. HAGER: Good evening. David Hager, a
12 concerned citizen. I would just like, with the EIS,
13 address the interference with the aircraft radar. If
14 you get a chance before you leave Long Island to go
15 down, say maybe to Amityville. Go to the end of one
16 of the streets that overlook the Great South Bay, late
17 afternoon and watch the number of flights, planes that
18 are going to be going over this specific area where
19 they are proposing. In the EIS you -- mandate is even
20 being, even if it's a minor interference with radar,
21 where do we go. One plane down, oops that was a
22 little to much. Two planes down, now we really
23 screwed up. Let's shut it all down. That's just, you
24 know, be very careful of that. As far as interference
25 of radar, they can't be any whatsoever, minor,

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1 moderate, nothing, zero tolerance for that. Thank you
2 very much.

3 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Okay. That's
4 the end of our list of registered speakers. Is there
5 anybody who has not registered who would like to say
6 something?

7 MR. DALE: Dorian Dale.

8 MR. GASPER: If you wouldn't mind coming
9 up here?

10 MR. DALE: Just relative to --

11 MR. GASPER: Could you please state your
12 name?

13 MR. DALE: Dorian Dale, Town of Babylon.

14 MR. GASPER: Thank you.

15 MR. DALE: Relative to a couple of points,
16 specifically as it relates to pilot projects, which
17 your programmatic choose, I think you should be
18 guidance of two considerations. First of all FPL, who
19 is the project developer of Maine for the Long Island
20 offshore water project factory, whichever you prefer.
21 In their ten year long range statement written in
22 2005, 2004 actually, suggested that they would have a
23 pilot project of ten megawatts up and running off the
24 coast of Florida by the year 2007. So, you should, I
25 think take that under advisement that at least as of

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1 three years ago, Florida Power and Light, who is
2 clearly the principal manufacturer of onshore wind,
3 suggested that this was certainly something that was
4 conceivable within the scope of their generation in
5 Florida. And furthermore, I would like to also point
6 out that Winergy is proposing in state waters a
7 comparable megawatt project, a little bit less, off
8 of Shelter Island. And the reason that it is
9 advisable to take that under consideration is to
10 follow the British example where they have been
11 demonstration projects and where such projects
12 continue to this day, despite all their experience.
13 I would also suggest that the United Kingdom's
14 Department of Trade and Industry, which oversees
15 renewables and is really very forthright and very
16 clear with the statistics. Specifically, I think you
17 heard the citation before of the UK load capacity of
18 25 percent. That's representation by DTI, United
19 Kingdom. It's at odds with the excerpt, the unsource
20 excerpt you cite in you programmatic. I think it's
21 very important that at the very least you be thorough
22 in that regard because clearly what is left with as
23 far as an impression is that there has perhaps not
24 been very thorough homework done in this programmatic
25 and that a lot of the citations are very industry

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1 friendly and I'm sure that you don't want to give the
2 appearance of that kind of conflict. Thank you.

3 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Anyone else?
4 Sure.

5 MR. BROOKS: I was running late on the last
6 --

7 MR. GASPER: Could you --

8 MR. BROOKS: John Brooks from Save Jones
9 Beach Ad Hoc Committee. The PEIS has a big chapter on
10 oil spills and the harm to the fishing industry and
11 possibility of collisions and they talk about however,
12 oil spills associated with alternative energy
13 facilities would have a much lower probability of
14 occurring in deeper offshore waters, where impacts
15 would be less -- oil spills associated with tanker
16 transportation of oil and those associated with oil
17 and gas production be lessened in deeper offshore
18 waters. However, the Long Island offshore wind park
19 is proposed to be sited one mile from the navigational
20 channels coming into New York Harbor, which contains
21 all of our petroleum products, many other chemicals et
22 cetera. And the wisdom of allowing a siting project
23 that is one mile from some of the busiest shipping
24 channels in our nation, should be addressed. Thank
25 you.

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1 MR. GASPER: Thank you. Anyone else?
2 All right. Well, thanks again for taking the time to
3 come here and comment. All of your comments will be
4 considered in the final EIS and at this point in time
5 we will declare the meeting closed. Thank you.

6 (Whereupon the foregoing Public Hearing
7 was concluded at 8:55 p.m.)

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